

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. On 5 November 1953, a Bulgarian delegation of 7-8 members (names unknown) visited the Central Office for Research and Technology (ZAFT) in East Berlin.
2. Doctor Alfred Baumbach of ZAFT then called in a representative of the DDR Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) and a representative of the Ministry of Health (a Doctor of Medicine). Frau Vogel from the Ministry of Reconstruction, was also present as interpreter.
3. The Bulgarians then stated that the matter which they wished to discuss was urgent and important. There was then, they said, an epidemic of gangrenous sheep mastitis in Bulgaria. This had reached such serious proportions that 90% of their goats and sheep were affected and large numbers had already succumbed.
4. The Bulgarians asked for an immediate supply of suitable serum from the DDR for the inoculation of their stocks. The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry said that she had already spoken with Veb Asid Serum, Dessau. This works had refused the production of serum on the ground that animals would have to be inoculated in Germany and this was impracticable.
5. The Germans stated that strains of the infective organisms should be delivered to them so that a vaccine could be produced. The Bulgarians refused this offer, without stating their grounds.
6. The meeting then broke up without any results having been achieved. Nothing more has been heard of this matter since 5 November 1953.

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- 2 -



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7. At some time in the course of the meeting the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry stated that the outbreak in Bulgaria was most surprising and that she believed it was the first such epidemic in Europe for a very long time.

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